

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
QUARTERLY RESEARCH STATUS REPORT

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I. UI RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

A. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

Study Title: Unemployment Insurance Service (UIS) Performance Measurement Review (PMR) Project

Purpose: To examine, evaluate and improve the mechanisms for assessing State Employment Security Agencies (SESA) performance in administering the UI program thereby promoting continuous improvement in the delivery of prompt and quality services to the program's primary customers - claimants and employers. This project is also designed to ensure that the Secretary of Labor's statutory responsibilities for the administration and oversight of the UI programs are being carried out effectively. PMR is a multi-year project consisting of three phases. Phase I, the design stage, included the development of alternative performance measures. Phase II, the current phase, is a field test of measures to determine their operational feasibility. Phase III will include phased implementation.

Beginning Date: September 30, 1988

Ending Date: Late 1995 - begin Nationwide implementation

Contractor: Phase II - Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

UI Monitor: William N. Coyne

Status: The six States participating in the field test of PMR measures - California, Illinois, Kansas, Missouri, New Hampshire and Wisconsin- have completed timeliness and quality reports for the fifteen-month period ending September 30, 1994. The project contractor visited each field test State with National Office and Regional Offices staff in an intensive effort to validate the data being reported for the PMR measures. As a result of a consensus reached during the mid-test meeting in May, some defined revisions and report formatting changes are under consideration to make the measures more useful to State management. A UIPL is being prepared for comments on proposed phased nationwide implementation to begin in September, 1995 with all States reporting PMR measures by May, 1996.

Funding Source: UI National Activities (Phase II)

Study Title: Employee Leasing Study

Purpose: The overall goal of this project will be to determine the impacts of employee leasing on UI claimants and on the UI system. Specific objectives include whether employee leasing has led to experience rating manipulation, unpaid employer taxes and reduced UI grants as a result of fewer employers.

Beginning Date: June 1, 1993

Ending Date: June 30, 1996

Project Monitor: Norm Harvey

Status: The evaluation design is complete. The survey instrument for contracting State officials is complete and has received OMB approval. The survey of state officials will take place in September/October 1994. A test of computer analysis of data from the State of Maryland is underway to verify the practicality of this approach to identifying leasing companies, client firms and their employees. Contacts are being made with the States needed for the survey of employers.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: Study of An Increase in the Unemployment

Purpose: This study was undertaken in order to develop a better understanding of employer response to changes in the Federal taxable wage base and its impacts on employment. It can be used by policy makers at the State and Federal level in the formulation of policy towards increasing the Federal taxable wage base.

Beginning Date: June 30, 1992

Ending Date: September 1, 1994

Contractor: KRA Corporation

UI Project Monitor: Robert Pavosevich

Status: The final report has been submitted. It includes a review of pertinent literature, a macro model, and an analysis of micro data on the four sample States. The analysis concentrates on the impacts of a tax base increase on both labor and industry, high and low wage employers, small and large firms, and different States. As part of this study, KRA looked at all possible wage base and tax rate change combinations and possible changes in the degree of experience rating as a result of a tax base increase.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: Revenue Quality Control Employer Compliance Pilot

Purpose: To test feasibility of determining the extent registered UI employers comply with State laws regarding filing accurate contribution reports and payment of contributions due.

Beginning Date: Mid 1995

Ending Date: June 1997

Contractor: Abt Associates assisted in design; contractor to assist with implementation and to perform evaluation yet to be selected.

UI Project Monitor: Burman Skrable

Status: This project was put on hold as a result of ETA's "Work Dump". It is now being reconsidered for start-up. If so, it would not begin before summer 1995. A decision will be made in early 1995.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: Unemployment Insurance Service Policy Issues Book

Purpose: To develop an Unemployment Insurance (UI) book on current policy issues. This book will be the second volume in a two- volume set complementing a volume being published by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Beginning Date: March 1, 1994

Ending Date: December 30, 1996

Contractor: The Upjohn Institute

Project Monitor: Norm Harvey

Status: Contract has been awarded and prospective authors of individual chapters are being contacted. A working outline has been prepared and is being refined.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: UI Survival Analysis Rate and Benefit Model

Purpose: This study had two main objectives. One is to develop a statistically valid model of benefits. The initial phase of this project will consist of building a PC-based model which can be run in the latest available version of LOTUS 1-2-3 (or similar spreadsheet software as agreed upon by UIS and the contractor) and maintained by UIS actuarial staff.

Beginning Date: September 30, 1994

Ending Date: September 30, 1997

Contractor: Battelle

UI Project Monitor: Kelvin J. Taylor

Status: This project was awarded to Battelle on September 30, 1994. An initial meeting with

Battelle is scheduled for October 1994.

Funding Source: Unemployment Insurance Research and Training (UI R&T)

B. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

Study Title: Benefit Payment Control (BPC) Technical Assistance Guide (TAG) and Training

Purpose: To examine, evaluate and identify successful and cost effective methods nationwide for operating benefit overpayment prevention, detection, recovery and prosecution systems. A comprehensive BPC TAG, which serves both the intrastate and interstate programs, will be developed and associated training will be conducted for State BPC staff on the use of the newly developed TAG.

Beginning Date: October 1, 1991

Ending Date: February 1, 1995

Contractor: Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Development

UI Monitor: Ginger Weight

Status: Maryland has completed the BPC TAG and States have been notified of plans for distribution of the TAG and conducting the associated training during September through mid November 1994. The Maryland project staff will be conducting the training. Two training sessions have been completed and the third session is scheduled for November 14-18, 1994. A final report which includes the results of the training evaluation will be submitted by the Maryland project staff in early 1995.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

II. UI DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Study Title: Maryland Work Search Demonstration

Purpose: This demonstration project is an extension of other DOL research projects that have examined the effects of WI/ES services to facilitate claimant's return to work. This demonstration will determine whether or not the stringency of work search requirements accelerates claimant reemployment and reduces UI benefits paid, without reducing the wage rate obtained by the claimant. The results from this demonstration will provide valuable information to DOL and all States on the desired effect of work search requirements and identify potential policy changes that can be made to make work search requirements more effective.

Beginning Date: September 27, 1991

Ending Date: March 1997

Contractor: Maryland Department of Economic and Employment Deployment (DEED), with Abt Associates

UI Project Monitor: Wayne Gordon

Status: New participant enrollment will end December 1994. Services to and monitoring of participants will continue until the last participant's benefit year expires Collection of State administrative data for analysis has begun.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: New Jersey Follow-Up Study II

Purpose: To conduct a second follow-up study of the long-term earnings and UI program impacts on selected participants in the New Jersey Reemployment Demonstration Project (NJUIRDP). Treatment services were: (1) Job Search Assistance (JSA); (2) JSA with training of relocation allowance; and (3) Job Search Assistance combined with a reemployment bonus. Results from the original NJUIRDP showed that job search assistance alone was the most effective treatment service. A follow-up study was completed in 1990 and indicated that the treatment service impacts need to be measured over a seven-year period and during different economic conditions. Results should be very useful in analyzing the long-term impacts of the treatment services.

Beginning Date: June 30, 1992

Ending Date: December 30, 1994

Contractor: New Jersey Department of Labor with Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

UI Project Monitor: Norm Harvey

Status: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. has submitted a draft report. The final evaluation report, together with a separate summary of the results and implications of the original and follow-up New Jersey studies, should be available by the project end date.

Funding Source: Unemployment Insurance Research and Training (UI R&T)

Study Title: UI Self-Employment Demonstration Evaluation

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine the viability of self-employment as a reemployment option for unemployed workers. This contract provides an evaluation of two experimental UI Self-Employment Demonstration Projects that were conducted in the States of Washington and Massachusetts. This will provide a process analysis, impact

analysis, and benefit-cost analysis of these projects.

Beginning Date: June 16, 1988

Ending Date: January 31, 1995

Contractor: Abt Associates Inc.

UI Project Monitor: Jon C. Messenger

Status: Evaluation results to date have demonstrated that self-employment is a viable option for some portion of UI beneficiaries. As a result, the Congress enacted a temporary provision providing for a self-employment assistance (SEA) program for UI beneficiaries in the NAFTA implementing legislation (P.L. 103-182). Contractor is currently preparing the final evaluation report on the Washington and Massachusetts Self-Employment Projects.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: Job Search Assistance Demonstration Evaluation

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to determine the feasibility of implementing different types of job search assistance programs. The Job Search Assistance (JSA) Demonstration represents an experimental research effort mandated by the Congress (P.L. 102-164) to build on the results of the New Jersey UI Demonstration Project. The New Jersey Demonstration showed that one package of intensive job search assistance services can speed dislocated UI claimants' return to productive employment. The JSA Demonstration expands on this knowledge base by testing alternative service approaches to see which have the greatest impacts and are most cost effective. The demonstration project is being conducted in Florida, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Beginning Date: October 1, 1993

Ending Date: May 31, 1998

Contractor: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Project Monitor: Jon C. Messenger

Status: The research design for the demonstration has been completed and planning for project operations is well underway. Project operations are scheduled to begin first in Florida, with the enrollment of project participants beginning in November 1994.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

III. DOL PROJECTS RELATED TO UI

Study Title: Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act Study

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the impact of the Emergency Unemployment Compensation Act of 1991 on the labor market experience of the unemployment insurance claimants, on the economy, on the UI trust funds and to explore policy options for extending benefits during periods of future high unemployment.

Beginning Date: September 30, 1994

Ending Date: March 31, 1997

Contractor: Mathematica Policy Research, Inc.

Status: Contractor is summarizing related studies and beginning work on the research design.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: Evaluation of Worker Profiling Systems

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to provide research assistance to DOL in conducting a comprehensive evaluation of the operations and effectiveness of State Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services Systems. The plan is to conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services Initiative to provide both:

1. an evaluation of the operation and effectiveness of State Worker Profiling and Reemployment Service Systems, in accordance with Public Law (PL) 103-152, which mandates a report to the Congress by November 2d, 1996; and
2. a longer-range evaluation to provide an assessment of the operation and effectiveness of more mature State Worker Profiling and Reemployment Services Systems.

Beginning Date: July 1, 1994

Ending Date: June 30, 1998

Contractor: Social Policy Research Associates

UI Project Monitor: Jon Messenger

Status: The contract has recently been initiated. An introductory meeting between DOL staff working on the initiative and the contractor has been held. The contractor has begun work on a draft evaluation design that will be completed in November.

Funding Source: UI National Activities

Study Title: Evaluation of Short-time Compensation Programs

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to gather data and conduct analysis necessary for the improvement of the program and for the Secretary of Labor to provide a required report to Congress on the implementation of Section 401 of the Unemployment Compensation Amendments of 1992.

Beginning Date: June 30, 1994

Ending Date: June 30, 1996

Contractor: Berkeley Planning Associates

UI Project Monitor: Norm Harvey

Status: Contractor is preparing the draft evaluation design.

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations

Study Title: Evaluation of Telephone Processing of Initial Claims in the Unemployment Insurance System

Purpose: The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effects of telephone processing of initial claims on services to claimants and on agency performance, procedures, staffing levels and costs.

Beginning Date: Early 1995

Ending Date: December 30, 1997

Contractor: To be determined

Project Monitor: Norm Harvey

Status: Part being modified

Funding Source: Pilots and Demonstrations